

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

11 August 1980

DOCUMENT 1-351/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr CAPANNA

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the freedom of the press and the sentencing
of FABIO ISMAN, editor of the daily 'Il Messaggero'

The European Parliament,

- noting that, according to the FNSI (Italian National Press Federation), many extremely disquieting legal moves have occurred over the past year in Italy, e.g. the prosecution of 34 journalists who had reported statements made at a press conference by the defence lawyers of Professor Negri for breach of secrecy of a judicial preliminary investigation, and the prosecution of 36 directors and editors of daily newspapers for 'inducing an unknown public official to reveal official secrets', following the publication of the news that Public Prosecutor Infelisi had applied for a warrant for the arrest of the former Chairman of the IMI, Giorgio Cappon, and the oil industrialist Rovelli,
- having been informed that:
 - (a) on 7 May 1980 the editor of IL MESSAGGERO, Fabio Isman, was arrested,
 - (b) on 24 May 1980 Fabio Isman was sentenced by Court VII, Criminal Division, Rome to 18 months' imprisonment, without the benefit of suspension,
 - (c) the reason for his conviction is 'complicity' 'in the disclosure of the secrets of a judicial preliminary investigation within the meaning of Article 326 of the Penal Code',
 - (d) on 30 May, notwithstanding the opinion of Public Prosecutor Amati Fabio Isman was refused bail because of the 'seriousness of the offence' and the 'possibility that he would continue to act in breach of the law',
 - (e) on 16 July release on bail was again requested by Isman's defence lawyers and, on 25 July, it was again refused,
- 1. Considers that the entire proceedings against the director and editor of IL MESSAGGERO and their outcome reveal an unprecedented desire to inflict punishment. Above all, however, they increase and hence confirm the fear that, in these circumstances, the protection and the guarantees of freedom to provide information are being dangerously undermined;
- 2. Calls upon the Governments of the Member States, and particularly the Italian Government, to safeguard to the greatest possible extent the right to information and the freedom of the press;
- 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council.